

When you use propaganda to mislead the people, you are the enemy.

If a public official deliberately hides documents or closes meetings, we are the enemy.

We will come after you if you are an oppressor of the underprivileged.

We will never allow anyone to silence the voices and opinions of others.

If you ignore laws and human rights, you are the enemy.

We will call out discrimination, any willingness or eagerness to hate, narrow-mindedness.

We will exploit anyone who creates smoke to divert anyone from the fires that you build.

We are the enemy of ignorance, all ignorance.

If you suppress, we are the enemy.

If you scheme, we are the enemy.

If you use conflicts of interest to gain leverage, you are the enemy.

If you are, in any form, an enemy of the public trust, then, of course, we are the enemy.

If you believe facts are subjective and truths should be measured in shades of gray, then we are your enemy in black and white.

And when you say there is no need for a free press, we are absolutely, unequivocally, your enemy.

So now that we have established ourselves as your enemy, know this: We are not the enemy of the people. Our readers and the public are our allies against you. We represent the communities we serve; we are their reflection—good, bad and indifferent. They depend on us to collect, vet and present information in spite of selfish motivations.

We are the watchdogs, sometimes the only ones who will stand up and say, “Hold on.” We will say, “I don’t think so.” We can declare, “Out of line.” And we are not afraid to say, “You’re wrong.”

We will kick over stones. We will ask hard questions. We will separate facts from fiction.

We will challenge you to prove yourself. We will ask you to think for yourself.

We will force you to say “yes” or “no.”

We will make you uncomfortable.

We will hold on to certain issues like a dog with a bone, until we are certain our investigation is complete.

We will also make mistakes. And we will own them and we will correct them.

We will sometimes publish an incomplete story. But we try, at all costs (and with far limited resources than ever before), to avoid presenting something that could be construed as “fake news.” That does not serve our interest to be the vehicle for answers, information or truth.

And if we are doing our job well, no one is ever really happy with us. But we earn respect.

To those who say journalists are the enemy, we definitely are. We actually wear that charge as a badge of honor. We are proud of the work we do and the purpose that we serve.

Because without us, or with even a hint of a state-run media, facts have no value.

George Seldes was fond of quoting Abraham Lincoln, who, during the Civil War, once famously said, “I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts.”

Seldes was an investigative journalist, correspondent, editor and author. He lived in Hartland Four Corners and died in 1995 at the age of 104. Over the course of his career, Seldes influenced many young people to become journalists. He also was hated for standing up to authority, both in foreign nations for his news coverage, and at home for his harsh criticism of the American press.

But he did journalism a favor by being everyone’s enemy and making us all squirm and question roles—both as consumers of news and newsmakers.

James Russell Wiggins, a career journalist who worked for The Washington Post and later retired to Maine, summarized the thread of the Fourth Estate’s purpose as this: “Americans will be tempted, in the years ahead, to sacrifice the principles that have made their country what it is. It will seem appropriate and convenient to meet the demands of crisis by bending a little here and giving a little there. It is an inclination that will have to be resisted at the first trespass upon our freedoms, or other invasions of individual rights will come swiftly upon us.”

That day is here, friends.

THE HIGH SCHOOL CODES ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak about the importance of teaching computer science and coding in our education system. Throughout the United States and especially in my home State of Washington, our internet economy is booming. Nationwide it represents 7 percent of our GDP, which makes up 13 percent of Washington State’s economy. In Washington State, over 13,000 internet companies provide more than a quarter of a million jobs.

Every student in America should be taught the tools they need to enter our 21st century economy. Every student in the United States should have the opportunity to learn about the internet, and algorithms, and apps. This is a skills gap we have to close, and that is why I joined with my colleague from Louisiana, Senator CASSIDY, to introduce the High School CODES Act earlier this year.

Senator CASSIDY and I have long considered and spoken about the importance of allowing students to have the ability fulfill a math, science, or language requirement with a coding class.

That is why Senator CASSIDY and I were pleased to include language in the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act that the President signed into law yesterday. The language in the bill would allow Federal funds to support “efforts to expand, develop, and implement programs to increase the students’ opportunity for rigorous courses” in coding and computer science and “support statewide efforts to create access to implementation of coding and computer science.” Additionally, Senator CASSIDY and I were pleased to get an amendment included in the appropriations bill that highlights the importance of a dedicated funding stream for coding courses in K–12 education.

During the Carl D. Perkins markup negotiations both the majority and minority agreed to include strong report language that captures the intent of our original bill, S. 3122, the High School CODES Act. Additionally, we are pleased that Senator ALEXANDER agreed to send a letter to Education Secretary DeVos expressing the same.

I ask Senator CASSIDY, is it your understanding that the purpose of our

legislation is to incentivize States to allow coding classes be used in lieu of advanced math, science, or foreign language requirements?

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I, too, want to emphasize the importance of introducing young students to computer science and coding courses as part of their education. I thank my colleague and friend, Senator CANTWELL, for working with me on this issue. The answer is yes. Our legislation, the High School CODES Act, will incentivize states to allow coding and computer science classes to satisfy an advanced math, science, or foreign language graduation credit.

Now, this is not to replace the basic math, science, and foreign language classes all students need, but to allow students who do not need to take Calculus II or III to instead take a computer science or coding course. The CODES Act does not mandate curriculum on States; it gives them the flexibility to provide students with the type of education that best fits their needs. It gives students more opportunity to succeed in our rapidly changing economy.

According to code.org, computing occupations are the No. 1 source of all new wages in America and make up over half of all projected new jobs in STEM fields; yet, computer science is marginalized throughout our education system, with fewer than half of U.S. schools offering any computer science course, and only 8 percent of STEM graduates studying it.

In my home State of Louisiana, there are currently more than 2,300 open computing jobs. The average salary for a computing occupation in Louisiana is approximately \$67,600, about \$26,000 higher than the average salary in my State.

I applaud the State legislature for creating the LaSTEM Advisory Council to oversee the creation and delivery of STEM programs in Louisiana and for the LA Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for approving new STEM pathways for students allowing new, industry-based courses to count towards math and sciences for graduation.

In addition to thanking Senator CANTWELL, I want to thank education committee Chairman ALEXANDER for his support for including provisions in the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act that effectively captures the original intent of our bipartisan bill. We are also pleased the chairman agreed to report language and a letter to Education Secretary DeVos expressing the intent of the provisions. Lastly, I am pleased that Senator CANTWELL and my amendment is included in the minibus appropriations bill highlighting the importance of funding for coding courses in K–12 education.

These are positive steps that will give more students the opportunity to take computer science and coding classes.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, last August, the world watched in horror as Burma's military launched an ethnic cleansing campaign of rape, arson, and mass murder against the Rohingya.

Despite the Burmese military's claims that their operations were in response to attacks on police outposts by extremists, the evidence is clear that the Burmese military had made extensive preparations to carry out these operations. Their preparations included systematically disarming Rohingya civilians, training and arming non-Rohingya communities, and building up an unusually large military and security presence in Rakhine, all in anticipation of attacks that included extrajudicial executions, rape, expulsions, and mass burning of Rohingya villages throughout Rakhine state.

The military's campaign of ethnic cleansing has forced more than 720,000 Rohingya—roughly 80 percent of the entire Rohingya population in Burma—to flee for safety in Bangladesh, creating the world's worst refugee crisis in recent history. The government and people of Bangladesh have shown extraordinary generosity by providing safe harbor to those fleeing violence in Burma and continuing to keep its border open.

Bangladesh is at a tipping point. Already the world's most populous country, there simply isn't enough space or capacity to house this new population. Camp conditions for the Rohingya population are miserable. Refugees are living in plastic and bamboo shelters dangerously perched on the side of clay hills. Children have limited access to education. While many would prefer not to rely on limited humanitarian aid, work is tough to come by.

The day-to-day reality for the Rohingya people in Bangladesh is bleak, and while many 1 day wish to return home to Burma, they rightfully ask for their government to guarantee their safety and to recognize their civil and political rights; yet so far, even these basic demands are unmet.

Equally troubling, conditions for the Rohingya who stayed behind in Burma remain perilous. Andrew Gilmour, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, recently declared that while the nature of their persecution has changed, there persists a "lower intensity campaign of terror and forced starvation."

Burmese officials continue to reject UN and other international findings of ethnic cleansing, crimes against humanity, and, potentially, genocide. In fact, the Burmese Government has relentlessly blocked access to Rakhine state by many humanitarian groups, independent media workers, and UN observers, in an attempt to prevent the international community from assessing the very violations they deny are happening. A New York Times journalist recently gained access to Rakhine state and met Rohingya who described living in a constant state of

fear and repression. She also saw the burnt remnants of what used to be Rohingya villages and visited repatriation centers that appeared more like "concentration camps."

The horrific and ongoing human rights abuses committed against the Rohingya demand a strong response from the United States and the international community. I support the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, DRL, and other offices in conducting fact-finding efforts analyzing over 1,000 interviews with Rohingya civilians and documenting the scope and nature of the atrocities committed. I urge Secretary Pompeo to publicly release the entire report including any findings of crimes against humanity and genocide.

Furthermore, I strongly urge this administration to lead the international community in fully using all appropriate mechanisms to secure accountability for the ethnic cleansing, mass atrocities, and other potential grave crimes the Burmese military has committed against the Rohingya. Accountability is essential if Burma is to continue on a path of democratic reform and genuine national and ethnic reconciliation.

This pathway for accountability includes calling for an international, impartial, and independent investigation to gather evidence on perpetrators, as well as working towards their eventual prosecution. I sincerely hope that robust and legitimate investigations will ensure that those who orchestrated and perpetrated these brutal crimes are brought to justice and that all the people of Burma, including the Rohingya, will one day be able to enjoy the fruits of an inclusive and pluralistic democratic nation.

REMEMBERING POWELL MOORE

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, today, I want to remember and pay tribute to Mr. Powell Moore, a native Georgian, veteran, and patriot who passed away earlier this month.

Mr. Moore was a native of Milledgeville, GA, and a graduate of both the University of Georgia and Georgia Military College. Over the course of his life, Mr. Moore served in the U.S. Army, aided two U.S. Senators and four Presidents, gave back to the community, and positively influenced those around him.

Mr. Moore served as a U.S. Army infantry officer in Germany. He worked as Senator Richard Russell's press secretary for 5 years, and over 30 years later, he returned to the U.S. Senate to serve as Senator Fred Thompson's chief of staff. He was Deputy Director of Public Information at the Department of Justice. He was a White House aide to President Richard Nixon, President Gerald Ford, and President Ronald Reagan. He was an Assistant Secretary of State under Reagan and an Assistant Secretary of Defense under President George W. Bush. He rep-

resented the Department of Defense in Vienna, Austria, at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and in 2005, he was awarded the DOD's Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

Clearly, Mr. Moore was a man of accomplishment and service to his country. Perhaps the greatest measure of his accomplishment, however, is the manner in which he conducted himself.

Throughout his career, Mr. Moore was universally respected by both political parties. He was known for investing in those around him, mentoring generations of America's future leaders of all political stripe. Mr. Moore served as president of both the Senate Press Secretaries Association and the Association of Former Senate Aides. He gave back to both of his alma maters, serving on the board of visitors for the University of Georgia's journalism school and as a trustee for the Georgia Military College Foundation and the Richard B. Russell Foundation.

Mr. Moore leaves behind a legacy that his family, friends, and certainly all Georgians and Americans can be proud of. His life is an example of true servant leadership and the American Dream. It is humbling to honor his memory today. My wife, Bonnie, and I join fellow Georgians and Americans in offering condolences and prayers to Mr. Moore's family and friends during this time.

NATIONAL GASTROPARESIS
AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I would like to call attention to the estimated 5 million Americans suffering from gastroparesis in observance of National Gastroparesis Awareness Month in August.

Gastroparesis is a chronic digestive disease in which the stomach cannot empty properly in the absence of any observable blockage. Symptoms of gastroparesis, which include nausea, vomiting, and the inability to finish a normal-sized meal, can lead to malnutrition, severe dehydration, and difficulty managing blood glucose levels. This debilitating and sometimes life-threatening disease can affect people of all ages, but it is four times more likely to affect women than men.

While there is no cure for gastroparesis, some treatments, such as dietary measures, medications, procedures to maintain nutrition, and surgery, can help reduce symptoms. Unfortunately, gastroparesis is a poorly understood condition. Patients often suffer from delayed diagnosis, treatment, and management of this disorder. As such, further research and education are needed to improve quality of life for the millions of Americans, including thousands of Wisconsin residents who suffer from this disease.

I want to recognize the important efforts of the International Foundation for Functional Gastrointestinal Disorders, IFFGD, an international organization based in my home State of